

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th October 2012 in Eastington Methodist Church

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Allen, Bullock, Cozens, Edis-Bates, Edwards, Greenaway and Simmons; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO). There were no members of the public present. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Evans. Apologies were sent by District Councillor Stephens.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:**
 - Chair asked Councillors to contact him if they are able to attend the canal meeting
 - Chair thanked Cllr Allen for her helpful reports of the Roads & Transport and Burial Ground committee meetings.
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Cllr Allen, seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** Cllr Edwards advised that the Ramblers' subscription had doubled as there had been no increase for ten years.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** It was agreed that the Footpaths item be brought forward.

As there were no members of the public present, an adjournment was not necessary.

Chair read a report from District Councillor Ken Stephens, which focused on the recent Core Strategy meeting at SDC:

- The plan period has been extended to 2031.
- The housing requirement for this period was calculated to be 9260 (figure to be reviewed in the light of publication of 2011 census data).
- The District now has a 6.5 year land supply.
- The work is now to challenge the preferred strategy of housing distribution to get it changed to one of dispersal around the District.

7 Resolutions

7.1 Finance

- 7.1.1 RFO gave an update of the 2012-13 accounts, copy of report attached to the signed copy of these Minutes. RFO confirmed that the second tranche of the Precept has been received. Other income in September was £90 in donations towards the new footpaths noticeboard and £300 interment fee.
- 7.1.2 Cllr Cozens proposed approval of the purchase of a Dell laptop for the Clerk's use £379 + VAT, and the cost of setting it up by Hop-2-IT. Seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried.
- 7.1.3 The Ramblers' subscription was discussed. Cllr Edwards confirmed that there was benefit to EPC from continued membership of this organisation. Cllr Edwards will share the information with EPC when it comes out from the Ramblers to enable the subscription renewal to be reviewed again next year. Cllr Edwards proposed the subscription to the Ramblers be renewed for 2012-13. Seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried. There being no further questions about the accounts presented by RFO, Cllr Simmons proposed approval, seconded by Cllr Bullock. Carried. A copy of the schedule of the accounts for payment is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
- 7.1.4 A meeting was agreed for 6th November at 7pm in the Methodist Church to start the process of budget setting for 2013-14, and consideration of the amount of Precept required.
Action: RFO to circulate the 2012-13 budget, and the projections for the spend to March 2013.
Action: All councillors to consider the 2013-14 budget prior to the meeting on the 6th November, and share with fellow councillors any proposals.

7.2 Footpaths

- 7.2.1 Cllr Edwards advised that the manager of the Eastington branch of the Co-op, and his area manager were happy for the new display board to go on their wall. Permission is awaited from the landlord.
- 7.2.2 A meeting was agreed for 16th October for the Footpaths Committee to consider further the provision of the footpaths noticeboard and smaller notice boards at strategic points. Recommendations to be brought back to EPC.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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- 7.2.3 Chair wishes to formally thank all those contributing to clearing the footpaths recently.
- 7.2.4 The publication of circular walks will be reviewed by the Footpaths Committee and recommendations brought back to EPC.
- 7.3 Planning**
- 7.3.1 Cllr Edis-Bates added to Cllr Stephen's report on the Core Strategy Meeting, confirming that the Conservatives had tabled an amendment to reduce the housing numbers on the basis of ONS data, but this was voted against.
- 7.3.2 The best way to respond to SDC's decision on the Local Plan housing requirements was discussed. It was agreed that EPC will continue to press for dispersal of the housing throughout the District, questioning why the higher housing requirement number was agreed rather than a lower number that could be dispersed. It was agreed that an item will be drafted for the Eastington Community News, and that each Councillor should make their personal feelings known to David Drew, Lesley Williams, Mattie Ross and Chris Brine.
Action: Cllr Edis-Bates will circulate details of the Community Land Trust meeting at Cashes Green
- 7.3.3 Chair proposed that authority is delegated to Cllr Edis-Bates to respond on behalf of this council to SDC's "Economic Assessment and Employment Land Study". Carried.
Action: Cllr Edis-Bates to respond to SDC, and circulate a copy of his response to all EPC members.
- 7.4 Burial Ground and Churchyard**
- 7.4.1 Chair thanked the Burial Ground and Churchyard committee for their report. The following points were raised:
- Ownership of the pond: Cllr Cozens confirmed that the pond is not on the Burial Ground land
 - The churchyard has been closed at least 30 years
 - Cllrs Bullock and Simmons will clarify the procedure of interment of ashes in the churchyard
 - The memorial safety checks are pending
- 7.4.2 The repairs needed to the churchyard wall were discussed. Cllr Edis-Bates has inspected the wall and advises putting the bricks and coping stones that have been dislodged in a safe place. He further advised that pointing the wall now would save money in the future, and that the ivy needs to be removed. It was agreed that the burial ground committee would meet on 11th October on site to agree the scope of the work.
Action: Following the meeting on the 11th October, an amended specification will be prepared and issued to the builders.
- 7.5 Roads and Transport**
- 7.5.1 Chair thanked the Roads and Transport Committee for their report.
- 7.5.2 Cllr Allen confirmed that Dale Haines has volunteered to keep a stock of grit and a hand spreader on his premises, for use on the village centre footways. Chair proposed that this council approves the cost of a hand operated salt spreader (approx £100) to be purchased through GCC Highways. Carried.
Action: Clerk to order a hand spreader, and chase up the delivery of the grit to Cllr Cozens
- 7.6 Policy Objectives**
- It was agreed that the use of the word 'infill' in objective D1 could result in unwanted high density development. It was agreed that objectives C4 and R1 supporting activities at the OHMG and sporting facilities in the parish should be clarified. Chair proposed a revision of the wording of objectives D1, C4 and R1. Carried unanimously.
- Objective D1 to be amended to:** 'Priority for meeting housing requirements in the parish will be given to small groups of dwellings within the village envelope'.
- Objective C4 to be amended to:** 'To support the Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity in providing a new community building and a comprehensive range of facilities for all village organisations on the Owen Harris Memorial Ground'.
- Objective R1 to be amended to:** 'The Parish Council will give practical support as far as resources allow to the provision and use of sporting facilities for residents within the parish, with particular reference and priority to Policy Objective C4'.
- 7.7 Javelin Park**
- There was no resource available to respond to the Urbaser Balfour Beatty proposal for the development of an Energy from Waste facility

Signed

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8 Updates

- 8.1 Noted planning permission granted:
S.12/1561/HHOLD. Manor Cottage, Churchend. Erection of garden office/shed
S.12/1535/COU Oakdene, Westend. Change of use from agricultural to temporary caravan storage.
- 8.2 Chair gave an update on the recent meeting with Eastington Youth Group to discuss the POD: It seems likely that the Unite pods will be sold. EYG and OHMGC are meeting soon to discuss the possibility of a joint building venture.

Any other business for the next meeting.

The GAPTC annual report was made available to councillors.

The meeting closed at 9:30

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 13th November 2012. Anybody with an item they wish to bring to the attention of the Council, should forward details, in writing, to the Clerk to the Parish Council, no later than Wednesday 7th November 2012.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date